The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news notes and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1609 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 6

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

If anyone tries to tell you that labor is not making any real sacrifices in this war and is, in fact, getting rich and fat out of the war production program, we wouldn't blame you for getting sore.

That's what the newspapers have been trying to tell all of us in this country day in and day out and we don't mind saying that we are hot under the collar about it.

The outrageous lengths to which the newspapers are resorting in their efforts to smear labor, while going all-out in their tearful defense of big business, violates all principles of American fair play.

There are any number of factual answers available to such lying propaganda. One of the best we have seen, covering any specific situation, appears in a front-page editorial of the Seafarers Log, official organ of the Atlantic and Gulf District of the Seafarers' International Union of North America. Here it is, in full:

An Open Letter

"To All Shipowners,

"Gentlemen:

"We have lost several ships during this past month. They have been sent plunging to the bottom of the Atlantic with great holes torn in their sides by enemy torpedoes.

"When you balance your books at the end of the year, you'll find that your profit sheet won't be as long as it might have been—if these ships had not gone down.

"But we can't squeeze out any tears for you. Not when we count our dead. Fifty-seven of our Brothers went down with those ships. Fifty-seven families have been robbed of their fathers or husbands or sons. The way we figure things, our loss is greater than yours.

"NOT ONE of our Brothers had so much as an air-rifle with which to protect himself against the enemy raiders. NOT ONE of our Brothers was protected by the new-style life belts (such as the British merchant seamen have). NOT ONE SIU man was able to climb out of the icy waters onto a life raft, because the ships were not equipped with these rafts.

"And why in hell weren't they?

"Congress passed a bill to arm merchant ships long before this country got into the war. The Maritime Commission announced last November that the ships would be armed with anti-sub guns and anti-aircraft guns just as rapidly as they left the ports.

"This has not been done!

The Rafts Weren't There

"The City of Atlanta went to the bottom in five minutes. The Venore went down in seven minutes. Even granting that the life boats were in good condition, it is next to impossible to get the crew off in that length of time. Moreover, even if the ship is listing to port, the starboard boats are useless. And if the ship is listing to starboard, the port boats are useless. On the Atlanta the crew was able to launch only one boat and that one was crushed and sucked under by the sinking ship. A couple of life rafts aboard these ships would have saved many lives.

"But the rafts weren't there!

"This war is a month old now. For 30 days the seamen have been sailing the ships without the protection to which they are entitled—protection which has been promised repeatedly by both the Government and you.

"A gun and a life raft is little enough to ask for—don't you think? Then what's the stall?

"Are priorities holding things up? Or could it be that you hate to shell out for the cost!

"Whatever the reason, we say to you with all earnestness, things must change! The men who sail the ships must have the very minimum protection of anti-sub guns and life rafts.

"Very truly yours,

"THE MEN WHO SAIL YOUR SHIPS."

Surely, if the newspapers wished to be of some constructive use to the nation in time of war, they could enlist their services in the cause of "the men who sail the ships" and other victims of carelessness and negligence on the part of profit-hungry employers!

ST. LOUIS LABOR BLOCKS LARGE FEE FOR WAR JOBS

St. Louis, Mo.—American Federation of Labor unions were instrumental in closing out a scheme by a private employment agency to muscle in on the hiring of workers all here. The small ammo plant operated by the Western Cartridge Company for the War Department, charging a racket-eering fee for their service.

Joseph P. Clark of the Central Trades and Labor Council, saw the agency's advertisement for men. He sent a number of union members to apply for the job. The unionists found that the agency's fee was 60 per cent of the first month's wages.

Mr. Clark told R. B. Deschner, manager of the Missouri Employment Service, that under an agreement between the Federal Government and the Western Cartridge Company all hiring was to be done through the State agency. As a result the hiring was transferred to the Missouri agency and to the Missouri Employment Service and the men got their jobs without paying any fee.

AFL Unions Pour In Pledges To Aid Billion-Dollar Defense Bond Drive

Washington, D. C.—From every section of the nation union officials and members are swamping AFL headquarters here with enthusiastic pledges of support for the American Federation of Labor's one-billion-dollar defense bond drive.

AFL national and international unions, their local unions, state federations of labor, city central bodies and directly affiliated locals are contributing to the limit of their resources to put this patriotic program over the top.

The drive opens Feb. 22, Washington's Birthday, with a joint radio appeal from President William Green and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr. Central Labor unions throughout the nation are planning mass meetings for that evening or shortly thereafter to launch the widest possible response.

Some of the pledges of help already received are printed below and others will be published from time to time as they are received.

Glass Bottle Blowers

President James Maloney reports that the Glass Bottle Blowers Association has purchased $100,000 worth of defense bonds from its national treasury. In addition, he says, "our local unions throughout the country are making arrangements for employers to deduct from their pay checks certain specified amounts each pay day for the purchase of defense bonds."

"I am confident," he adds, "that all AFL members will patriotically respond to your appeal and gladly make every possible sacrifice in order that our country may be victorious."

Hod Carriers

President Joseph Moreschi reports that the International Hod Carriers, Building and General Laborers' Union purchased the permissible limit of $50,000 worth of defense bonds last summer and has plans for a similar amount for this year. In addition, all representatives and officers of the union have agreed to monthly pay deductions for defense bond purchases. Local unions are also investing their funds in these bonds.

"We are preparing," Mr. Moreschi adds, "for the transfer of funds for our local unions to sell defense bonds directly to their members when they deposit their dues."

Painters and Decorators

President L. P. Lindelof reports that the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America is requesting all district councils, state conferences and local unions to subscribe to the limit fixed in the AFL defense bond drive. The union has already purchased $50,000 worth of defense bonds from its own treasury and urges all its locals to make similar investments.

Local Union 644 in Los Angeles, whose members received a ten per cent wage increase, reported that each member purchased at least one bond this month. All local unions are urging their members to buy bonds and stamps every week.

Printing Pressmen

Secretary-Treasurer Joseph C. Orr of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, sends word that this union is sending a letter to all local unions "recommending a coordinated drive to promote defense bond purchases by members. Records of all local unions are being compiled to determine the amount already purchased by these unions and their members."

Airline Pilots Association

President David L. Behncke of the Airline Pilots Association reports that the union already has bought $40,000 worth of defense bonds and is planning to purchase more. All members in their meetings urged "to enhance the splendid goal that has been established by the AFL."

Central Labor Unions

Among the final central labor unions to report they have already completed plans for mass meetings on Feb. 22 are Waco, Tex.; Goshen, Ind.; Oklahoma City, St. Louis, Bogalusa, La.; Porter County, Ind., and Bedford County, Ind.

Local Unions

Messages from local unions include:

Federal Labor Union No. 19981, Bellefonte, Pa.—"Every member has purchased defense bonds, the lowest amount held by any member being $75. Members employed by the Titan Metal Mfg. Co. have agreed on a payroll allotment plan for weekly purchases."

Brushmakers Union Local 16363, New York City—Officers and shop stewards will meet Feb. 22 to set up a permanent committee for the purpose of distributing defense bonds and stamps to membership.

Railway Patrolmen's Union, Local 22586, Cincinnati—Every member has subscribed for defense bonds to the limit of the individual's ability. The bonds are being purchased by payroll deduction by authorization to the management of Cincinnati Union Terminal Co.

Local 329, Federation of AFL unions, Meadville, Pa.—The members of these unions, approximately 5,000, have adopted a payroll allotment plan by which they expect to purchase $150,000 worth of defense bonds each month.

RAILWAY CLERKS ROSTER HITS TWENTY-YEAR PEAK

Cincinnati, Ohio.—President George M. Harrison of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks revealed that the union's membership has gone over the 150,000 mark for the first time in any year peak. In January alone 6,000 new and reinstated members were added to the Brotherhood. He said that all major railroads except one, the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis, are under the Clerks' banner.

AFL SWEEPS VOTE IN WESTERN UNION

Green Sees Wider Gains After Chicago and Indianapolis Victories

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor is sweeping to victory in elections of Western Union employes throughout the nation and expects to have the entire system organized before the end of the year.

Two new cities joined the AFL's fold within the past week—Chicago and Indianapolis.

John Schrier, AFL organiser, notified President William Green that the result of the Chicago election was as follows:

Commercial Telegraphers Union	
AFL	1,115
Independent Union	765

This clear-cut victory followed close upon the heels of the Indianapolis election which was even more sweeping. The vote in Indianapolis was:

AFL	177
Against	3

President Green sent congratulatory telegrams to the locals in both cities and joined organization Director Frank Fenton in predicting a clean sweep of the Western Union system in short order. Already the employes of this company in Boston, Hartford, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Erie, Washington, D. C., and many other cities have joined the AFL ranks.

NAVY AWARDS "E" TO AFL WORKINGMEN

Washington, D. C.—More than 5,000 AFL members in Maryland are proudly wearing bronze lapel buttons with the letter "E," symbol of the Navy Department's highest award for efficiency in production. They are members of the Machinists and Blacksmiths unions employed at the Warner & Swasey Co. and the Steel Improvement and Forge Co. in Cleveland.

The fleet plant between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mts. to receive the "E" pennant from the Navy is the Beatrice Steel Tank Co., Beatrice, Neb., which is under contract with the Machinists Union of the AFL, President Brewer of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor, announced.

NAVY YARD WORKERS LAUDED FOR BUYING DEFENSE BONDS

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox in a radio broadcast praised the workers in the government navy yards, most of whom are organized in AFL unions, for having invested $1,700,000 in defense savings bonds during November. "They are showing a patriotic spirit which matches that of the navy's men behind the guns," he said.

Labor's "War Cabinet" To Draft Unified Program For Roosevelt

Amity and Harmony Mark First Meeting With President In White House

Washington, D. C.—At the request of President Roosevelt, the American Federation of Labor and the CIO are now working out joint recommendations for achieving labor's utmost participation in the nation's war effort.

The unified program will be submitted to the President at his next meeting with labor's "war cabinet" to be held at the White House Feb. 20.

Among the outstanding issues on which the representatives of both labor groups will seek agreement before this meeting are:

1—How to develop an adequate labor supply for completing the President's 56 billion-dollar victory production drive in the coming year.

2—Formulation of a wage policy which will maintain living standards and keep pace with increased living costs yet prevent the spread of inflation.

3—Reduction to the absolute minimum of unemployment caused by conversion of peace-time manufacturing facilities to production for war needs.

4—Mitigation of the effect of priorities and rationing on existing jobs.

5—Application of the seven-day week and the twenty-four hour day to all vital war industries.

All of these important matters were discussed with the President by labor's "war cabinet" at its first historic meeting in the White House Feb. 6. A friendly, cooperative spirit prevailed throughout the long session. The talk was frank and to the point. It was agreed that the adoption of a unified program by the AFL and CIO acceptable to the Administration would go a long way toward solving some of America's toughest war problems.

Those present at the conference representing the AFL were President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Vice President Daniel J. Tobin. The CIO delegation was composed of President Philip Murray, R. J. Thomas and Julius Emspak. Sidney Hillman participated as an adviser to the President and Mrs. Anna Rosenberg acted as secretary.

At the conclusion of the conference, President Green told newspapermen it had been "highly satisfactory." Mr. Murray said he "echoed" Mr. Green's statement. The labor representatives posed in amicable fashion for photographers and newsreelmen and then adjourned to a luncheon conference where steps for drafting the proposed unified program were agreed upon.

Official Labor Policy Announced To Safeguard Working Standards

Washington, D. C.—An official statement of labor policy in the war production program, designed to safeguard the rights of workers and at the same time promote maximum production effort, was made public by Secretary of Labor Perkins.

The labor policies were approved by the War, Navy and Labor Departments and have been endorsed by the American Federation of Labor. Posters giving the text of the statement will be displayed for the information of workers in every plant and factory in the nation. The text follows:

"The President has said that unrelenting production is the price of victory. Secretary Knox has said that he has ordered all war facilities to proceed immediately on a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week production basis. Time is short and the President's command must be complied with now.

"The challenge to our freedom can and must be met at once by heroic efforts on the part of management, labor and Government. Wherever and however local labor markets are exhausted, and pending conversion of nondefense machine capacity and workers and the training of new workers, men and women now on the job must keep every machine running continuously, regardless of the sacrifice entailed.

"Shortages in available labor in the critical days ahead require relaxations in accepted standards. But every effort should be directed toward shortening the period during which all-out production is dependent upon continuance of these relaxations. Industry must convert machinery and recruit and train labor as fast as humanly possible to assure early return to sound labor standards which over any protracted period are essential to the maintenance of maximum production. Any other policy would be shortsighted and ultimately reduce the quality and quantity of our production would be perilously impaired. These standards are the mechanisms of efficiency. Industrial history proves that reasonable hours, adequate rest conditions and a proper wage scale are essential to high production.

"The period of adjustment will be short because management, labor and Government will cooperate. To this end management must immediately institute intensive plant training and upgrading of workers. Labor must intensify its efforts to make this training successful. Government must expand and coordinate its training programs to increase labor supply.

"All labor resources should be utilized to their maximum efficiency, and in particular full use made of all qualified local labor. The United States Employment Service is the official recruiting agency for industry. Management and labor have been specifically requested to use to the fullest Public Employment Offices and should comply with this request. To this end Federal and State authorities must devote their entire energies, giving intelligent guidance and effective coordination to, and where necessary, supplementing the efforts of industry.

"This all-out program of production requires the employment of all labor in accordance with those practices which will result in the maximum contribution of which it is capable. The sole test of labor standards must be the effect on the efficiency of the individual and on the war production effort. Based on this test the state laws and regulations embracing the following basic principles should be preserved except where modification may be necessary during the war period to assure maximum production:

"(1) A maximum 48-hour week, since weekly hours in excess of this standard have been demonstrated to result in decreased rather than increased production when continued for any extended period of time.

"(2) An 8-hour day, or the daily hours customarily worked in the particular establishment, industry or community.

"(3) One-day-of-rest-in-seven, because experience has shown that this interlude has a revitalizing effect on the worker and a consequent beneficial effect on the total output.

"(4) Adaptation of the hours of labor and working conditions to the age and sex of the worker and the nature of the occupation.

"(5) Provision should be made for adequate meal and rest periods from continuous work in order to preserve health and efficiency.

"(6) Proper safeguards for health and safety go hand in hand with production efficiency and therefore, greater care must be exercised in making up plant conditions safe and healthful.

"(7) Wage rates for women should be the same as for men, including the entrance rate.

"These standards must be relaxed if and only when necessary for the war production. There must be no relaxation of standards preventing employment of minors under the age of 16. At the same time there must be vigilance to prevent any unnecessary abrogation or suspension of labor laws and regulations. There is no occasion to engage in a blanket suspension of labor standards. It would be unwise to sacrifice, where sacrifice is not required, the safeguards with which the country has sought to protect labor. Social gains, not inconsistent with war needs, must be conserved."

Labor Press Is Now Subject to War Time Censorship Code

Washington, D. C.—The labor press is now subject to the same code of war time practices issued by the Office of Censorship for the regulation of daily newspapers and other publications.

The Office of Censorship called upon the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service to make this code available to the labor press and it is published in full herewith.

The key to the code is a simple one. Editors are asked to exercise care in deciding to print a story whether the information therein contained would be of value to the enemy and to act accordingly.

The text of the code follows:

This statement responds to the many inquiries received by the Office of Censorship, asking for an outline of newspaper and magazine practices which the Government feels are desirable for the effective prosecution of the war.

It is essential that certain basic facts be understood from the beginning.

The first of these facts is that the outcome of the war is a matter of vital personal concern to the future of every American citizen. The second is that the security of our military forces and even of our homes and our liberties will be weakened in greater or less degree by disclosure of information which will help the enemy.

If every member of every news staff and contributing writer will keep these two facts constantly in mind, and then will follow the dictates of common sense, he will be able to answer for himself many of the questions which might otherwise trouble him. In other words, a minimum of accomplishment will be attained if editors will ask themselves with respect to any given detail, "Is this information I would like to have if I were the enemy?" and then act accordingly.

The result of such a process will hardly represent "business as usual" on the news desks of the country. On the contrary, it will mean some sacrifice of the journalistic enterprise of ordinary times. But it will not mean a news or editorial blackout. It is the hope and expectation of the Office of Censorship that the columns of American publications will remain the freest in the world, and will tell the story of our national successes and shortcomings accurately and in much detail.

The highly gratifying response of the press so far proves that it understands the need for temporary sacrifice, and is prepared to make that sacrifice in the spirit of the Prussian's recent assurance that such curtailment as may be necessary will be administered "in harmony with the principle of our free institutions."

Below is a summary covering specific problems. This summary is made, with some modifications, requests previously made by various branches of the Federal Government, and it may be regarded as superseding and consolidating all of those requests.

Special attention is directed to the fact that all of the requests in this summary are modified by a provision that the information listed may properly be published when authorized by appropriate authority. News on all of these subjects will become available from Government sources; but in war, timeliness is an important factor, and the Government unquestionably is in the best position to decide when disclosure is timely.

The specific information which newspapers and magazines are asked not to publish *except when such information is authoritatively released officially by appropriate authority* falls into the following classes:

TROOPS

The general character and movements of United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps units, within or without the continental limits of the United States—their location, identity, exact composition, equipment or strength; their destination, routes, and schedules; their assembly for embarkation, prospective embarkation, or actual embarkation. Any such information regarding the troops of friendly nations on American soil.

NOTE.—The request as regards location and general character does not apply to troops in training camps in continental United States, nor to units assigned to domestic police duty.

SHIPS

The location, movements, and identity of naval and merchant vessels of the United States in any waters, and of other nations opposing the Axis powers, in American waters; the port and time of arrival or prospective arrival of any such vessels, or the port from which they leave; the nature of cargoes of such vessels; the number of the army naval or merchant crews in or near American waters; the assembly, departure or arrival of troop or supply convoys; the existence of mine fields or other harbor defense; the sailing directions or other instructions regarding lights, buoys, and other guides to navigators; the number, size, armament and location of ships in construction, or advance information as to the time of launchings or commissionings; the physical set-up or technical details of shipyards.

PLANES

The disposition, movements, and strength of Army or Navy air units.

FORTIFICATIONS

The location of forts and other fortifications; the location of coast-defense, anti-aircraft and anti-aircraft guns; their nature and number; location of land mines; location of camouflaged objects.

PRODUCTION

Specific information about war contracts, such as the exact type of products and factories scheduled; rates of delivery, or progress of production; estimated supplies of strategic and critical materials available; or Nation-wide "round-ups" of locally published information data except such composite information is officially approved for publication.

Specific information about the location of, or other information about, plants and factories engaged in defense, which would aid saboteurs in gaining access to them; information about secret processes; the use of any observation by the general public during the location of other war factories yet to be established, or the nature of their production.

Any information about new or secret military designs, or new factory designs for war production.

WEATHER

Weather forecasts, other than officially issued by the Weather Bureau; the routine forecasts printed by any single newspaper to cover only the State in which it is published and not more than four adjoining States, portions of which lie within a radius of 150 miles from the point of publication.

Consolidated temperature tables covering more than 20 stations, in any one newspaper.

NOTE.—Special forecasts issued by the Weather Bureau warning of unusual conditions, or special reports issued by the Weather Bureau concerning temperature tables, or news stories warning the public of dangerous roads or streets, within 150 miles of the point of publication, are all available for publication.

Weather "round-up" stories covering actual conditions throughout more than one State, except when given out by the Weather Bureau.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS

Photographs conveying the information specified in this summary, unless officially approved for publication.

Detailed maps or photographs disclosing location of munition dumps, or other restricted Army or Naval areas.

NOTE.—This has no reference to maps showing the general theater of war, or large-scale zones of action, movements of contending forces on a large scale, or maps showing the general ebb and flow of battle lines.

NOTE.—Special care should be exercised in the publication of aerial photos presumably of nonmilitary significance, which might reveal military or other information helpful to the enemy; also care should be exercised in publishing any photos which are not to reveal unit identifications through collar ornaments, etc. Special attention is directed to the section of this summary covering information about damage to military objectives.

GENERAL

Casualty lists.

NOTE.—There is no objection to publication of information about casualties from a newspaper's local field, obtained from nearest of kin; but it is requested that in such cases, specific military and naval units, and exact locations, be not mentioned.

Information disclosing the new location of national archives, art treasures, and so on, which have been moved for safekeeping.

Information about damage to military and naval objectives, including docks, railroads, or commercial airports, resulting from enemy action.

NOTE.—The spread of rumors in such a way that they will be accepted as facts will render aid and comfort to the enemy. It is important that enemy claims of ship sinkings, or of other damage to Axis resources, be weighed carefully and the source clearly identified, if published.

Information about the transportation of munitions or other war materials, including oil tank cars and pipelines.

Information about the movements of the President of the United States, of official military or diplomatic missions of the United States or of any other nation opposing the Axis powers—routes, schedules, or destination, within or without the continental limits of the United States; movements of ranking Army or naval officers and Chiefs of State; movements of other individuals or units under special orders of the Army, Navy, or State Departments.

NOTE.—Advertising matter, letters to the editor, interviews with editors on such subjects, may be included in the above requests, both as to text and illustration.

If information should be made available anywhere which seems to the publisher to be important, or to be in conflict with the general aims of these requests; or if special restrictions appear locally or otherwise by various authorities seem unreasonable or not adequate with this summary, it is recommended that the question be submitted at once to the Office of Censorship.

In addition, if any newspaper, magazine, or other agency or individual plans to publish any matter which raises clarification or advice as to what disclosures may be helpful to the enemy, the Office of Censorship will cooperate gladly. Such inquiries should be addressed to the Office of Censorship, Washington.

Should additions or modifications of this summary seem feasible and desirable from time to time, the industry will be advised.

THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP,
BYRON PRICE, *Director*.
JANUARY 15, 1942.

DONALD DUCK TAX MOVIE AVAILABLE FOR UNIONS

Washington, D. C.—The Treasury Department announced that it has available for AFL unions a few 16mm films in technicolor with sound track of the Disney movie "The New Spirit," showing Donald Duck, like so many other plain American citizens, eagerly paying his income tax to help his country win the war, using the new simplified form to make out his tax papers.

The film shows the tax money transformed into war material and ends with the triumph of our military forces. The running time of the movie is about 7½ to 8 minutes. Requests for the film should be sent to the Treasury Department, Washington, D. C. There is no charge except for transportation.

CINCINNATI A. F. L. FORMS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Cincinnati, Ohio.—The American Federation of Labor in Cincinnati announced the formation of a city-wide organizing committee, headed by AFL Regional Director E. C. Bundy, including six organizers and ten local AFL officials, to streamline its organizational drive.

"In the cooperative pattern of Cincinnati's Central Labor Council and Cincinnati's Business Representatives Club, AFL organizers and the organizing staffs of international unions are uniting their forces in key campaign movements as a unit," said The Chronicle, organ of the council. The committee has extended its activities to the organization of laundry workers, paper mill workers, food clerks, auto workers, printing pressmen and machinists.